



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Under Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Students and Teachers in Mississippi:

We want your help in naming a new ship for the Federal Government! On behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its partners, I am pleased to invite you to participate in the "Name NOAA's New Ship" competition. The winning team will name a 208-ft. fisheries survey vessel that will conduct marine fisheries and ecosystem research in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic.

As a federal science agency conducting research and gathering data about the global oceans and atmosphere, one of NOAA's important missions is to protect and preserve our Nation's living marine resources through scientific research, fisheries management, enforcement, and habitat conservation. You can learn more about NOAA through our Web site at www.noaa.gov.

NOAA has a fleet of ships and aircraft collecting environmental data in support of its missions. A state-of-the-art fisheries survey vessel is under construction, known as FSV #3, which will conduct fisheries research in the Gulf of Mexico. Because your community will benefit from its research, we would like you to learn what the ship will be doing and why, and to help us name it.

By forming a team and entering the competition, you will have fun while learning about your local living marine resources, coastal ecosystems, oceanography, and history. At the same time you will be helping NOAA achieve one of its educational goals: to bring to America's students a greater appreciation and understanding of the environment sustaining us all, and to create a new generation of stewards who will watch over and protect our precious natural resources for generations to come.

You can learn a lot about NOAA's activities by using the Internet to help spark your creativity. Please visit our Web site at www.education.noaa.gov to get the most up-to-date contest information. The winning team will be invited to attend the keel laying ceremony for this ship, and the team's school will receive a small-scale replica of the plate permanently affixed to the ship near the keel. The ship's name, developed from the contest, will be shown on this replica.

Be a part of history and form your team to Name NOAA's New Ship today!

Sincerely,

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere

